

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

### **Combating Bribery**

**Convention Between the  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
and OTHER GOVERNMENTS**

Signed by the United States at Paris on  
December 17, 1997



NOTE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Pursuant to Public Law 89—497, approved July 8, 1966  
(80 Stat. 271; 1 U.S.C. 113)—

“...the Treaties and Other International Acts Series issued under the authority of the Secretary of State shall be competent evidence . . . of the treaties, international agreements other than treaties, and proclamations by the President of such treaties and international agreements other than treaties, as the case may be, therein contained, in all the courts of law and equity and of maritime jurisdiction, and in all the tribunals and public offices of the United States, and of the several States, without any further proof or authentication thereof.”

## MULTILATERAL

### Law Enforcement: Combating Bribery

*Convention signed by the United States at Paris on  
December 17, 1997;  
Transmitted by the President of the United States of America  
to the Senate May 1, 1998 (Treaty Doc. 105-43,  
105th Congress, 2nd Session);  
Reported favorably by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations  
June 23, 1998 (Senate Executive Report No. 105-19,  
105th Congress, 2nd Session);  
Advice and consent to ratification by the Senate  
July 31, 1998;  
Ratified by the President November 20, 1998;  
Instrument of Ratification of the United States of America  
deposited December 8, 1998  
Entered into force for the United States February 15, 1999.*

# CONVENTION ON COMBATING BRIBERY OF FOREIGN PUBLIC OFFICIALS IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS

## Preamble

### The Parties,

**Considering** that bribery is a widespread phenomenon in international business transactions, including trade and investment, which raises serious moral and political concerns, undermines good governance and economic development, and distorts international competitive conditions;

**Considering** that all countries share a responsibility to combat bribery in international business transactions;

**Having regard** to the Revised Recommendation on Combating Bribery in International Business Transactions, adopted by the Council of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on 23 May 1997, C(97)123/FINAL, which, *inter alia*, called for effective measures to deter, prevent and combat the bribery of foreign public officials in connection with international business transactions, in particular the prompt criminalisation of such bribery in an effective and co-ordinated manner and in conformity with the agreed common elements set out in that Recommendation and with the jurisdictional and other basic legal principles of each country;

**Welcoming** other recent developments which further advance international understanding and co-operation in combating bribery of public officials, including actions of the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organisation, the Organisation of American States, the Council of Europe and the European Union;

**Welcoming** the efforts of companies, business organisations and trade unions as well as other non-governmental organisations to combat bribery;

**Recognising** the role of governments in the prevention of solicitation of bribes from individuals and enterprises in international business transactions;

**Recognising** that achieving progress in this field requires not only efforts on a national level but also multilateral co-operation, monitoring and follow-up;

**Recognising** that achieving equivalence among the measures to be taken by the Parties is an essential object and purpose of the Convention, which requires that the Convention be ratified without derogations affecting this equivalence;

**Have agreed as follows:**

## **Article 1**

### **The Offence of Bribery of Foreign Public Officials**

1. Each Party shall take such measures as may be necessary to establish that it is a criminal offence under its law for any person intentionally to offer, promise or give any undue pecuniary or other advantage, whether directly or through intermediaries, to a foreign public official, for that official or for a third party, in order that the official act or refrain from acting in relation to the performance of official duties, in order to obtain or retain business or other improper advantage in the conduct of international business.
2. Each Party shall take any measures necessary to establish that complicity in, including incitement, aiding and abetting, or authorisation of an act of bribery of a foreign public official shall be a criminal offence. Attempt and conspiracy to bribe a foreign public official shall be criminal offences to the same extent as attempt and conspiracy to bribe a public official of that Party.
3. The offences set out in paragraphs 1 and 2 above are hereinafter referred to as "bribery of a foreign public official".
4. For the purpose of this Convention:
  - a. "foreign public official" means any person holding a legislative, administrative or judicial office of a foreign country, whether appointed or elected; any person exercising a public function for a foreign country, including for a public agency or public enterprise; and any official or agent of a public international organisation;
  - b. "foreign country" includes all levels and subdivisions of government, from national to local;
  - c. "act or refrain from acting in relation to the performance of official duties" includes any use of the public official's position, whether or not within the official's authorised competence.

## **Article 2**

### **Responsibility of Legal Persons**

Each Party shall take such measures as may be necessary, in accordance with its legal principles, to establish the liability of legal persons for the bribery of a foreign public official.

## **Article 3**

### **Sanctions**

1. The bribery of a foreign public official shall be punishable by effective, proportionate and dissuasive criminal penalties. The range of penalties shall be comparable to that applicable to the bribery of the Party's own public officials and shall, in the case of natural persons, include deprivation of liberty sufficient to enable effective mutual legal assistance and extradition.
2. In the event that, under the legal system of a Party, criminal responsibility is not applicable to legal persons, that Party shall ensure that legal persons shall be subject to effective, proportionate and dissuasive non-criminal sanctions, including monetary sanctions, for bribery of foreign public officials.
3. Each Party shall take such measures as may be necessary to provide that the bribe and the proceeds of the bribery of a foreign public official, or property the value of which corresponds to that of such proceeds, are subject to seizure and confiscation or that monetary sanctions of comparable effect are applicable.
4. Each Party shall consider the imposition of additional civil or administrative sanctions upon a person subject to sanctions for the bribery of a foreign public official.

## **Article 4**

### **Jurisdiction**

1. Each Party shall take such measures as may be necessary to establish its jurisdiction over the bribery of a foreign public official when the offence is committed in whole or in part in its territory.
2. Each Party which has jurisdiction to prosecute its nationals for offences committed abroad shall take such measures as may be necessary to establish its jurisdiction to do so in respect of the bribery of a foreign public official, according to the same principles.



3. When more than one Party has jurisdiction over an alleged offence described in this Convention, the Parties involved shall, at the request of one of them, consult with a view to determining the most appropriate jurisdiction for prosecution.

4. Each Party shall review whether its current basis for jurisdiction is effective in the fight against the bribery of foreign public officials and, if it is not, shall take remedial steps.

## **Article 5**

### **Enforcement**

Investigation and prosecution of the bribery of a foreign public official shall be subject to the applicable rules and principles of each Party. They shall not be influenced by considerations of national economic interest, the potential effect upon relations with another State or the identity of the natural or legal persons involved.

## **Article 6**

### **Statute of Limitations**

Any statute of limitations applicable to the offence of bribery of a foreign public official shall allow an adequate period of time for the investigation and prosecution of this offence.

## **Article 7**

### **Money Laundering**

Each Party which has made bribery of its own public official a predicate offence for the purpose of the application of its money laundering legislation shall do so on the same terms for the bribery of a foreign public official, without regard to the place where the bribery occurred.

## **Article 8**

### **Accounting**

1. In order to combat bribery of foreign public officials effectively, each Party shall take such measures as may be necessary, within the framework of its laws and regulations regarding the maintenance of books and records, financial statement disclosures, and accounting and auditing standards, to prohibit the establishment of off-the-books accounts, the making of off-the-books or inadequately identified transactions, the recording of non-existent expenditures, the entry of liabilities with incorrect identification of their object, as well as the use of false documents, by companies subject to those laws and regulations, for the purpose of bribing foreign public officials or of hiding such bribery.

2. Each Party shall provide effective, proportionate and dissuasive civil, administrative or criminal penalties for such omissions and falsifications in respect of the books, records, accounts and financial statements of such companies.

## **Article 9**

### **Mutual Legal Assistance**

1. Each Party shall, to the fullest extent possible under its laws and relevant treaties and arrangements, provide prompt and effective legal assistance to another Party for the purpose of criminal investigations and proceedings brought by a Party concerning offences within the scope of this Convention and for non-criminal proceedings within the scope of this Convention brought by a Party against a legal person. The requested Party shall inform the requesting Party, without delay, of any additional information or documents needed to support the request for assistance and, where requested, of the status and outcome of the request for assistance.

2. Where a Party makes mutual legal assistance conditional upon the existence of dual criminality, dual criminality shall be deemed to exist if the offence for which the assistance is sought is within the scope of this Convention.

3. A Party shall not decline to render mutual legal assistance for criminal matters within the scope of this Convention on the ground of bank secrecy.

## **Article 10**

### **Extradition**

1. Bribery of a foreign public official shall be deemed to be included as an extraditable offence under the laws of the Parties and the extradition treaties between them.

2. If a Party which makes extradition conditional on the existence of an extradition treaty receives a request for extradition from another Party with which it has no extradition treaty, it may consider this Convention to be the legal basis for extradition in respect of the offence of bribery of a foreign public official.

3. Each Party shall take any measures necessary to assure either that it can extradite its nationals or that it can prosecute its nationals for the offence of bribery of a foreign public official. A Party which declines a request to extradite a person for bribery of a foreign public official solely on the ground that the person is its national shall submit the case to its competent authorities for the purpose of prosecution.



4. Extradition for bribery of a foreign public official is subject to the conditions set out in the domestic law and applicable treaties and arrangements of each Party. Where a Party makes extradition conditional upon the existence of dual criminality, that condition shall be deemed to be fulfilled if the offence for which extradition is sought is within the scope of Article 1 of this Convention.

## **Article 11**

### **Responsible Authorities**

For the purposes of Article 4, paragraph 3, on consultation, Article 9, on mutual legal assistance and Article 10, on extradition, each Party shall notify to the Secretary-General of the OECD an authority or authorities responsible for making and receiving requests, which shall serve as channel of communication for these matters for that Party, without prejudice to other arrangements between Parties.

## **Article 12**

### **Monitoring and Follow-up**

The Parties shall co-operate in carrying out a programme of systematic follow-up to monitor and promote the full implementation of this Convention. Unless otherwise decided by consensus of the Parties, this shall be done in the framework of the OECD Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions and according to its terms of reference, or within the framework and terms of reference of any successor to its functions, and Parties shall bear the costs of the programme in accordance with the rules applicable to that body.

## **Article 13**

### **Signature and Accession**

1. Until its entry into force, this Convention shall be open for signature by OECD members and by non-members which have been invited to become full participants in its Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions.

2. Subsequent to its entry into force, this Convention shall be open to accession by any non-signatory which is a member of the OECD or has become a full participant in the Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions or any successor to its functions. For each such non-signatory, the Convention shall enter into force on the sixtieth day following the date of deposit of its instrument of accession.

## **Article 14**

### **Ratification and Depositary**

1. This Convention is subject to acceptance, approval or ratification by the Signatories, in accordance with their respective laws.
2. Instruments of acceptance, approval, ratification or accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the OECD, who shall serve as Depositary of this Convention.

## **Article 15**

### **Entry into Force**

1. This Convention shall enter into force on the sixtieth day following the date upon which five of the ten countries which have the ten largest export shares set out in the annexed document, and which represent by themselves at least sixty per cent of the combined total exports of those ten countries, have deposited their instruments of acceptance, approval, or ratification. For each Signatory depositing its instrument after such entry into force, the Convention shall enter into force on the sixtieth day after deposit of its instrument.
2. If, after 31 December 1998, the Convention has not entered into force under paragraph 1 above, any Signatory which has deposited its instrument of acceptance, approval or ratification may declare in writing to the Depositary its readiness to accept entry into force of this Convention under this paragraph 2. The Convention shall enter into force for such a Signatory on the sixtieth day following the date upon which such declarations have been deposited by at least two Signatories. For each Signatory depositing its declaration after such entry into force, the Convention shall enter into force on the sixtieth day following the date of deposit.

## **Article 16**

### **Amendment**

Any Party may propose the amendment of this Convention. A proposed amendment shall be submitted to the Depositary which shall communicate it to the other Parties at least sixty days before convening a meeting of the Parties to consider the proposed amendment. An amendment adopted by consensus of the Parties, or by such other means as the Parties may determine by consensus, shall enter into force sixty days after the deposit of an instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval by all of the Parties, or in such other circumstances as may be specified by the Parties at the time of adoption of the amendment.

## **Article 17**

### **Withdrawal**

A Party may withdraw from this Convention by submitting written notification to the Depositary. Such withdrawal shall be effective one year after the date of the receipt of the notification. After withdrawal, co-operation shall continue between the Parties and the Party which has withdrawn on all requests for assistance or extradition made before the effective date of withdrawal which remain pending.

Fait à Paris ce dix-sept décembre, mil neuf cent quatre-vingt dix-sept, en langues française et anglaise, chaque version faisant également foi.

Done in Paris this seventeenth day of December, Nineteen Hundred and Ninety-Seven in the French and English languages, each text being equally authentic.

Pour la République Fédérale d'Allemagne  
For the Federal Republic of Germany

*Uus Confusion. Paris*

*Giuseppe Arnaldo*

Pour la République Argentine  
For the Argentine Republic

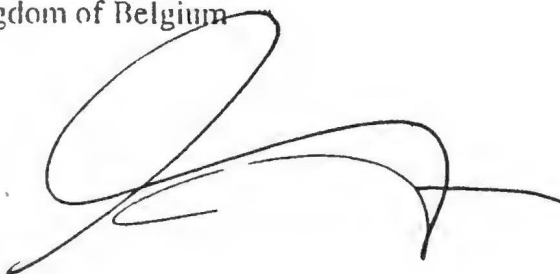
A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to the Argentine representative, written over the printed text for the Argentine Republic.

Pour l'Australie  
For Australia

Pour la République d'Autriche  
For the Republic of Austria

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hans-Joachim Lauth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

Pour le Royaume de Belgique  
For the Kingdom of Belgium

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal stroke and a small vertical tick at the end.

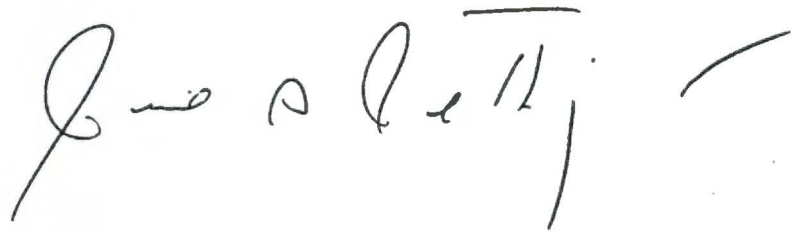
Pour la République Fédérative du Brésil  
For the Federative Republic of Brazil

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, horizontal, wavy line followed by a short vertical stroke.

Pour la République de Bulgarie  
For the Republic of Bulgaria



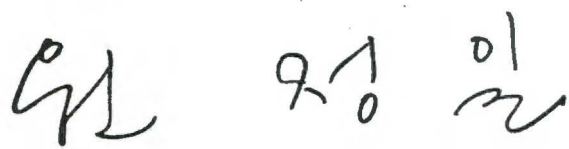
Pour le Canada  
For Canada



Pour le Chili  
For Chile



Pour la République de Corée  
For the Republic of Korea





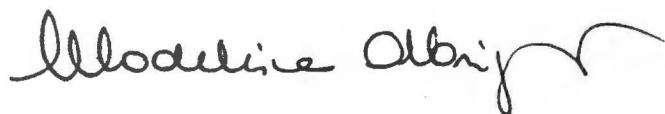
Pour le Royaume du Danemark  
For the Kingdom of Denmark

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Hedeager". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the first part.

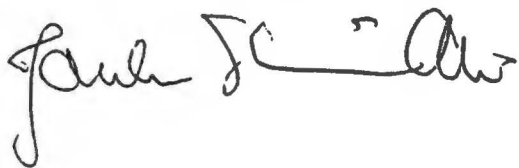
Pour le Royaume d'Espagne  
For the Kingdom of Spain

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. M. A. L.". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Pour les États-Unis d'Amérique  
For the United States of America

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Madeleine Albright". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Pour la République de Finlande  
For the Republic of Finland

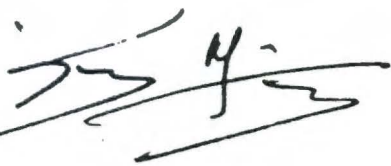
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Pauliina". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Pour la République Française  
For the Republic of France

Éliette Guipou

Dominique Straum-Hey.

Pour la République Hellénique  
For the Hellenic Republic



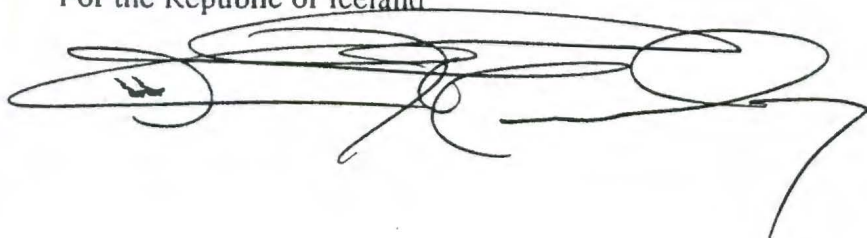
Pour la République de Hongrie  
For the Republic of Hungary

Vukobrat Pál

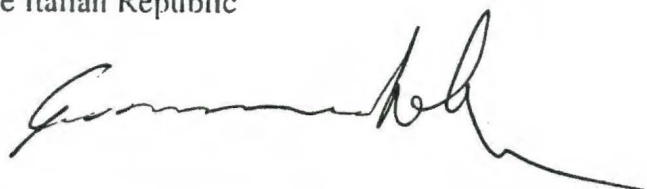
Pour l'Irlande  
For Ireland

Mary Wallace

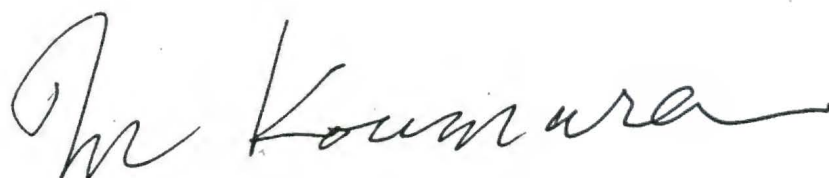
Pour la République d'Islande  
For the Republic of Iceland

A stylized, cursive handwritten signature in black ink, featuring several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Pour la République Italienne  
For the Italian Republic

A cursive handwritten signature in black ink, with a prominent initial 'G' and a long, sweeping tail.

Pour le Japon  
For Japan

A cursive handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr. Kounura' with a long, horizontal tail.

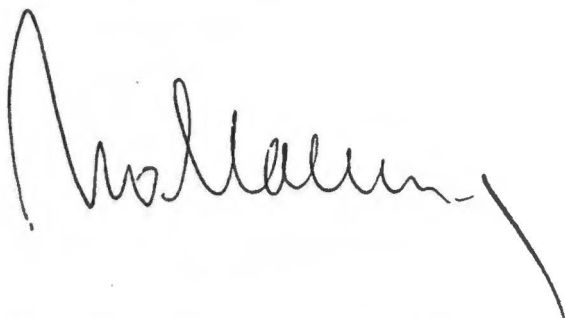
Pour le Luxembourg  
For Luxembourg

A complex, multi-stroke cursive handwritten signature in black ink, with several loops and a long, sweeping tail.

Pour les États-Unis Mexicains  
For the United Mexican States

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "A. C. ...", written in a cursive style.

Pour le Royaume de Norvège  
For the Kingdom of Norway

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "M. ...", written in a cursive style.

Pour la Nouvelle-Zélande  
For New Zealand

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "D. ...", written in a cursive style.

Pour le Royaume des Pays-Bas  
For the Kingdom of the Netherlands

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "J. ...", written in a cursive style.

Pour la République de Pologne  
For the Republic of Poland

*J. Suchocka*

Pour la République Portugaise  
For the Republic of Portugal

*António Amador*

Pour le Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne  
et d'Irlande du Nord  
For the United Kingdom of Great Britain  
and Northern Ireland

*Alan - Harris*

Pour la République Slovaque  
For the Slovak Republic

*J. Liscovský*

Pour le Royaume de Suède  
For the Kingdom of Sweden

Luis Paz Estrella

Pour la Confédération Suisse  
For the Swiss Confederation

Blancard

Pour la République Tchèque  
For the Czech Republic

Jaroslav Fiala

Pour la Turquie  
For Turkey

A stylized signature consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.



## ANNEX

DAFFE/IME/BR(97)18/FINAL

## STATISTICS ON OECD EXPORTS

OECD EXPORTS			
	1990-1996	1990-1996	1990-1996
	US\$ million	%	%
		of Total OECD	of 10 largest
United States	287 118	15,9%	19,7%
Germany	254 746	14,1%	17,5%
Japan	212 665	11,8%	14,6%
France	138 471	7,7%	9,5%
United Kingdom	121 258	6,7%	8,3%
Italy	112 449	6,2%	7,7%
Canada	91 215	5,1%	6,3%
Korea (1)	81 364	4,5%	5,6%
Netherlands	81 264	4,5%	5,6%
Belgium-Luxembourg	78 598	4,4%	5,4%
Total 10 largest	1 459 148	81,0%	100%
Spain	42 469	2,4%	
Switzerland	40 395	2,2%	
Sweden	36 710	2,0%	
Mexico (1)	34 233	1,9%	
Australia	27 194	1,5%	
Denmark	24 145	1,3%	
Austria*	22 432	1,2%	
Norway	21 666	1,2%	
Ireland	19 217	1,1%	
Finland	17 296	1,0%	
Poland (1) **	12 652	0,7%	
Portugal	10 801	0,6%	
Turkey *	8 027	0,4%	
Hungary **	6 795	0,4%	
New Zealand	6 663	0,4%	
Czech Republic ***	6 263	0,3%	
Greece *	4 606	0,3%	
Iceland	949	0,1%	
Total OECD	1 801 661	100%	

Notes: \* 1990-1995; \*\* 1991-1996; \*\*\* 1993-1996

Source: OECD, (1) IMF

Concerning Belgium-Luxembourg: Trade statistics for Belgium and Luxembourg are available only on a combined basis for the two countries. For purposes of Article 15, paragraph 1 of the Convention, if either Belgium or Luxembourg deposits its instrument of acceptance, approval or ratification, or if both Belgium and Luxembourg deposit their instruments of acceptance, approval or ratification, it shall be considered that one of the countries which have the ten largest exports shares has deposited its instrument and the joint exports of both countries will be counted towards the 60 percent of combined total exports of those ten countries, which is required for entry into force under this provision.